

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 6, 9, 18 and 23 have been amended to more particularly point out Applicant's invention and claims 4 and 21 have been cancelled. No new matter has been added to this application.

Objection to Drawings

The Examiner has objected to Figure 3 because element 302 recites "shin-tone" instead of "skin-tone". Applicants submit herewith a proposed version of Figure 3 wherein element 302 has been modified in red ink to recite "skin" instead of "shin". Upon approval by the Examiner, formal drawings including the proposed change will be submitted for consideration.

Objection to Specification

The Examiner has objected to the specification because of various informalities. Applicants have amended the specification to correct the informalities cited by the Examiner and request that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

Objection to Claims

The Examiner has objected to claims 6, 9 and 23 because of various informalities. Applicants have amended claims 6 and 23 to correct the spelling of the term "centroids" and claim 9 to include the word "to". Applicants request that the objection to the claim be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 1-3, 8, 9, 18-20 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 8, 9, 18-20 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,075,895 (Qiao). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 4, 6, 7, 11, 12, 14-16, 21, 23 and 24 contain allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 18 to include the limitations of claims 4 and 21 respectively. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 18, as amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants submit that claims 2, 3, 8, 9, 19, 20 and 25 being dependent upon independent claims 1 and 18 respectively are also in condition for allowance. Applicants request that the rejection of claims 1-3, 8, 9, 18-20 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 5 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 5 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Qiao in view of U.S. Patent No. 6, 501, 515 (Iwamura). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As indicated above Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 18 to include the allowable limitation of claims 4 and 21 respectively. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 5 and 22 which depend from independent claims 1 and 18 respectively are also in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 5 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-25, as amended are in condition for allowance and request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned should he have any questions in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,



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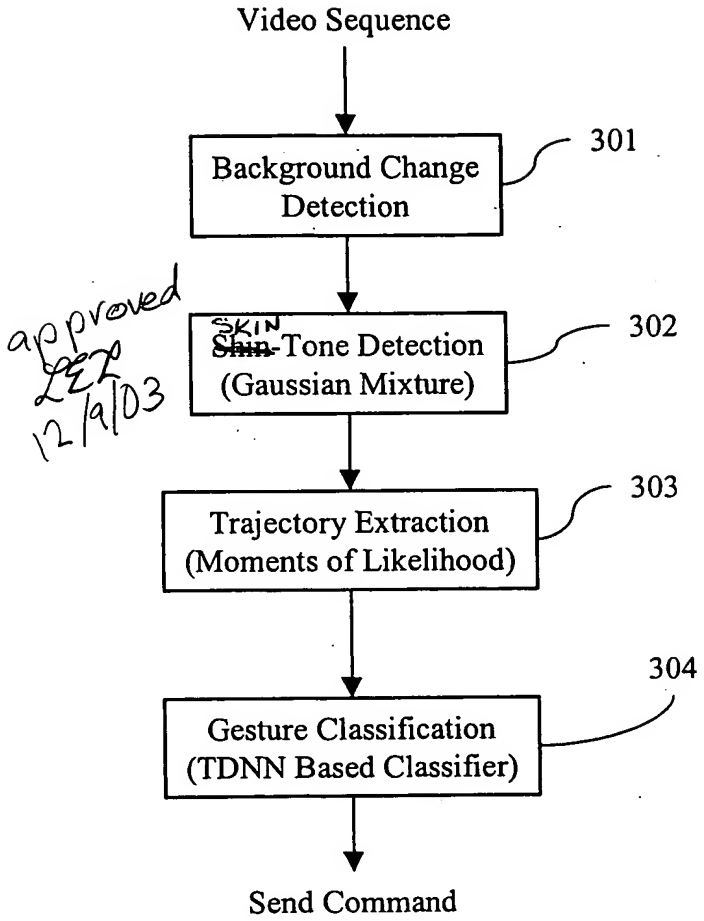


Fig. 3